

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO THE PAST AND CURRENT MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY THAT HAVE MADE THE SUGAR PLANT IN FORT MORGAN, CO, A SUCCESS

HON. MARILYN N. MUSGRAVE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 20, 2006

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the past and current members of the community that have made the Sugar Plant in Fort Morgan, CO, a success. They are now observing the plant's Centennial Celebration. For 100 years the sugar plant has significantly impacted the economy of northeastern Colorado.

Sugar beets became a major crop in the Fort Morgan area in 1905. People in the community realized the potential impact of the sugar industry and began a drive to get a sugar factory constructed. A contract for construction was made with the provision that area farmers would agree to raise 1,500 acres of beets the first year, increasing to 3,500 acres the following years.

On August 31, 1905, the last day to contract the required beet acres, the committee was short 1,500 acres. Fort Morgan Mayor Farnsworth issued a proclamation for all business places to close from 2–2:30 p.m. so the entire community could focus their efforts to ensure a successful campaign. The first beets were sliced on December 26, 1906. The campaign lasted 55 days and 17,000 tons of beets were sliced. Lack of adequate water was a handicap in the early days, but in 1912 a well system and pumping plant was provided at the South Platte River to end the trouble.

The establishment of the sugar plant had several economic advantages for the area. The value of the land was increased, irrigated acreage jumped from \$40/acre to \$200–250/acre. Cattle feeding started in the area that used beet tops and beet pulp, giving year round employment to hired hands who had previously been out of work during the winter months. The first beet crop brought \$1,000,000 in cash into the county and the population of the county grew during that year by nearly 2,500.

The Tate & Lyle company acquired 6 operating plants from the Great Western Sugar Company in 1985 and 1986, including the Fort Morgan Plant. In the late 1990s Tate & Lyle decided to sell their sugar holdings in the United States. The growers in the four state area decided that if they were going to keep the sugar beet industry they would have to become owners themselves. The Western Sugar Cooperative was formed when over 1,000 individuals stepped forward and invested their trust and dollars into the purchase of the Western Sugar Company. After a number of false starts and many frustrating months, the purchase was closed on April 30, 2002.

The 2006 campaign saw 745,169 tons of beets sliced in 139 days, producing a net

1,660,132 hundredweight of refined sugar. The payroll for fiscal year 2005 in Fort Morgan was \$5,325,349 for 90 year-round workers and approximately 98 seasonal workers.

Throughout the years there have been 21 other sugar factories under various companies in Colorado. Today, there is one remaining—the Fort Morgan plant. Many changes have taken place during the past 100 years, however, the sugar factory remains an integral part of the agricultural and business communities. I am proud to honor the Great Western Sugar Cooperative and the Fort Morgan Sugar Plant for 100 years of successful sugar production and the positive impact it has had on families and communities in northeast Colorado.

CONGRATULATING ISRAEL'S
MAGEN DAVID ADOM SOCIETY

SPEECH OF

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 18, 2006

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Res. 435, congratulating the Magen David Adom Society on its admission as a full member into the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Magen David Adom Society has a long and distinguished history of providing humanitarian assistance. Founded in 1930, this remarkable organization has provided first aid and disaster assistance to all of those in need, and has functioned as Israel's National Red Cross Society for over half a century.

Primarily a volunteer organization, the MDA provides aid to nearly 600,000 Israeli citizens each year and supplies 98% of Israel's domestic blood services. The MDA has also been deeply involved in providing assistance to international crises including the recent flooding in Romania and the aftermath of the Southeast Asian Tsunami.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the ICRC's decision to include the Magen David Adom Society on its membership and commend the MDA on its continuing contributions to the welfare of so many.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT AT-
TACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF
ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, as a Jew, as someone who loves Israel, and as a member of Congress, I stand in solidarity with the people of Israel.

I remain committed to a peace process for Israel's security and for the future of the Middle East. Unfortunately, that peace process and the relative calm that has been the reality in the region in recent months were violently attacked at dawn on June 25th when a Hamas terror cell infiltrated Israel through a tunnel, murdered two Israeli soldiers, and kidnapped 19 year old Corporal Gilad Shalit. The operation was praised by the Hamas government. This came after Israel had fully withdrawn from Gaza in September 2005, a move that offered the Palestinian people the opportunity to begin the development of their future independent state.

Then on July 12th, the Iran and Syria-supported Hezbollah terrorist organization crossed the internationally recognized border between Lebanon and Israel under a barrage of rocket and missile salvos, initially killing two Israeli soldiers and kidnapping two more. From positions in Lebanon, Hezbollah launched dozens of rockets laden with ball bearings indiscriminately at civilian communities in Israel. Israel fully withdrew from Lebanon in May of the year 2000. Last week's attack was so egregious that it prompted the leaders of Arab states, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan to condemn Hezbollah's act of vicious terrorism.

The premeditated, coordinated, and unprovoked terrorist attacks on Israel, from territory that Israel voluntarily conceded in an effort to promote peace and regional security, are absolutely indefensible. Hamas and Hezbollah bear direct responsibility for this current conflict.

Hezbollah receives military, financial and political support from Iran and Syria, with Tehran providing the terrorist group with an estimated \$100 million annually. Regular weapons shipments including Katyusha rockets, new long-range ballistic missiles, Chinese-made anti-ship missiles, mortars, anti-tank missiles, mines, explosives and small arms are sent to Hezbollah from Tehran through Damascus.

Iran and Syria have provided Hezbollah with more than 10,000 rockets, including shorter-range Katyushas and more sophisticated longer-range weapons, which the terrorist group is now firing at major Israeli population centers across northern Israel and beyond. In fact, on July 14th, Hezbollah used a Silkworm cruise missile to attack an Israeli ship, killing four sailors and yesterday, rockets slammed into a Christian-Arab neighborhood of Nazareth, a city respected by people of all faiths around the world.

Both Syrian President Bashar Assad and Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad have met with Hezbollah Secretary General Hassan Nasrallah in the past year to reaffirm their ties to the terrorist group. Ahmadinejad promised to continue to support Hezbollah's struggle against the "enemies of Islam."

Israeli and American officials believe Hezbollah would not have attacked Israel without a green light from its patrons in Damascus and Tehran, and the leaders of both countries

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Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

have subsequently expressed strong support for the attacks on Israel.

The United States Congress has already enacted several laws, including the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act, and the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act, all of which call for the imposition of sanctions on Syria and Iran for, among other things, their support for terrorism and terrorist organizations. We must insist that President Bush bring the full force of political, diplomatic, and economic sanctions available to the Government of the United States against the Governments of Syria and Iran.

Sadly and frighteningly, Hezbollah remains off the European Union's (EU) terrorist list. This means that European nationals continue to provide Hezbollah with material support to this day. President Bush and Secretary of State Rice must make an immediate push with our European allies to have Hezbollah added to the EU terrorist list.

Israel has the responsibility to defend its citizens and cannot be expected to tolerate the violent provocations Hamas and Hezbollah committed this month. And while I am convinced that Israel is using every possible effort to avoid civilian casualties, it has become clear that the terrorists in Hamas and Hezbollah stage their actions from within civilian communities, thereby intentionally putting civilians at risk. Israel must do what is necessary to defend itself while continuing to make every effort to avoid civilian casualties.

As the New York Times stated: "Kidnapping Israeli soldiers to use as bargaining chips for the release of Arab prisoners is horrible behavior for groups that claim international recognition and political legitimacy, as Hamas and Hezbollah do. The same applies to lobbing rockets over Israel's borders in the hope that they might kill unsuspecting civilians."

It is long past due for the international community to implement fully UN Security Council Resolution 1559, adopted in September 2004, which calls for the Lebanese army to secure southern Lebanon's border and for Hezbollah to be disarmed and disbanded. Lebanon cannot be free and democratic so long as Hezbollah continues to operate as a state within a state, complete with its own army.

Regarding the Palestinians, the peace process will continue to be under attack until Hamas denounces its violent charter, rejects terrorism, and recognizes Israel's right to exist and decides it is more important to build a Palestinian state than destroy the Jewish State. I encourage Israeli leaders to maintain a dialogue with moderates within the Palestinian Authority in order to keep hope of a two-state solution in the near future alive.

But in the meantime, the United States must stand by its friend and ally, Israel, and the Bush Administration must actively engage itself in seeking a resolution to this situation. As a first step to restoring calm, the kidnapped Israeli soldiers in Gaza and Lebanon must be returned unconditionally and unharmed, and the indiscriminate rocket attacks on Israeli civilians by Hamas and Hezbollah must end immediately.

I strongly encourage all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 921.

CONDEMNING THE RECENT ATTACKS AGAINST THE STATE OF ISRAEL

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 19, 2006

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Madam Speaker, today the world watches with sadness and grave concern as the Middle East is at war, civilians are being killed and maimed, and the possibility of a region-wide conflict grows by the day. People around the world watch this violence and ask what are the world's leaders doing to stop the killing, to end the bloodshed? We hear tough words, satellite television diplomacy, accusations and excuses, but no action or urgency to end the violence. With this type of global response we can all be tragically assured that our televisions will continue to show the horror, destruction and the suffering faces of innocents in Israel and Lebanon for some time to come.

I extend my prayers and heartfelt sympathy to the citizens of Israel and Lebanon who are suffering and grieving. Allow me to also extend my sympathies to Canada which also had citizens tragically killed in this conflict. In light of so many civilian deaths and destruction of infrastructure, it would be my hope and desire that the international community, led by the United States, would immediately start the difficult work of brokering a cessation to the killing and the start of a process to resolve this conflict through diplomacy rather than rockets and bombs. This is essential to allow the thousands of U.S. citizens to be safely evacuated out of Lebanon, as well as to prevent a much larger regional conflict from starting.

The entire world knows that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization, has provoked this conflict by illegally entering the sovereign territory of Israel on the border with Lebanon, abducting two Israeli soldiers and killing eight more. Today, this House rightly condemns this act and Hezbollah's on-going acts of terror with the passage of H. Res. 921.

The United States has a profound national interest in the security of Israel. The right of Israel and all sovereign nations to be secure and defend themselves from acts of violence and terror is clearly defined in international law. The action of Hezbollah to enter Israel on July 12, 2006 and commit acts of kidnapping and terror demands a focused military response that sends a clear message that terrorism will not be tolerated. The firing of rockets into Haifa and other Israeli cities and towns with the intent of killing and harming innocent civilians requires a firm, focused and proportional response against Hezbollah.

Yet, today, after a week of open warfare, there is the on-going destruction of civilian infrastructure in both Haifa and Beirut and more than 300 dead in Lebanon and at least 25 dead in Israel, overwhelmingly innocent civilians on both sides. In the near term, there is no prospect of security for Israeli or Lebanese civilians, only more death, destruction, fear and suffering on both sides. It is time for the international community to change this hopeless dynamic and immediately start to work to end this war using diplomatic power before it escalates and spreads throughout the entire Middle East. On the day of Hezbollah's incur-

sion into Israel, Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said, "I want to make clear that the event this morning is not a terror act, but an act of a sovereign state that attacked Israel without reason." This statement explicitly attributes to the Lebanese Republic the responsibility for this aggression against Israel, not Hezbollah. This is of concern since there has been no evidence put forth that the nascent government of Lebanese Prime Minister Faud Siniora has any knowledge of or sanctioned Hezbollah's terrorist act.

Lebanon is being bombed, ripped apart, in response to Hezbollah's terrorism. This strategic response may offer short-term security for Israel, but it also has the very real potential of transforming Lebanon into a radicalized, failed state. How will Lebanon recover politically and economically when this war ends? It is inconceivable that when the bombing stops there will suddenly be an international outpouring of generous donors willing support to spend billions of dollars to rebuild Lebanon's destroyed infrastructure, re-invest in its evaporated economy, and salvage its threatened democracy. It is much more likely that a new generation will be radicalized by the loss of hope in the future. At this moment, the prospect of a land bridge—a terrorist highway—of failed states and rogue nations stretching from the Mediterranean Sea to the Persian Gulf is a scenario that has emerged and poses a major threat to global security.

I am disturbed at the diplomatic impotence of the Bush administration as it plays the role of a spectator watching this war escalate and the death-toll mount. United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan is correct and to be commended for moving forward quickly to marshal international support to negotiate an immediate cease fire. I believe President Bush should join him in working to make a cease fire a reality. Furthermore, I strongly agree with Mr. Annan's call for a significant multinational force in Lebanon to secure the border with Israel, eliminate Hezbollah's military capacity, and help to establish the presence of whatever Lebanese army remains to enforce UN Security Council Resolution 1559.

Of course there are many voices here in the United States that oppose diplomacy and are comfortably dismissive of the death, destruction and long-term consequences of this war. Today, an editorial in the Washington Post dismisses diplomacy by saying, "If Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice makes the mistake of visiting Damascus, Mr. Assad will roll out the red carpet; then he will offer to stop the rocket and missile fire against Israel by Hezbollah and Hamas, on Syria's terms. The result will be to restore Damascus's influence in Lebanon and destroy the new independent, democratic government in Beirut—which has far more to fear from such a deal than from Israel's cratering of its airport runways and bridges." This "let them fight" sycophancy from the comfort of a safe office in the U.S. rather than a bombed out apartment or office building in Beirut ignores the obvious—Lebanon's democracy is being destroyed and it is a country on a path to becoming a failed state, as well as a haven for terrorists for years to come, unless the international community intervenes to change the current equation and establishes a guarantee of security for civilians.

It is important to remember that on April 18, 2006, President Bush appeared at a White